

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/765,600

Examiner

Tu Ba Hoang

Applicant(s)

BAUMANN ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-32.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 January 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

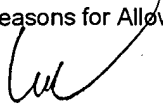
\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 1/26&6/18, 2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
Tu Hoang  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
AU3742

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Alfred K. Dassler on March 16 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, at lines 12 and 16: delete the term "approximately" (all occurrences).

In claim 3, at line 4, delete the phrase "directionally structured".

In claim 5, at line 2: delete the word "column";

at line 4: delete the phrase "one of";

and at line 5: delete "and" and insert thereby - -or as- -.

In claim 6, at line 2: delete the word "column";

and at line 5: delete the phrase "one of" and replace the word "and"

with - -or as- -.

In claim 9, at line 2: delete the phrase "one of:";

and at line 4: delete the phrase "; and" appeared after the word "surface" and insert thereby - -or- -.

In claim 12, at line 8: delete the phrase "directionally structured".

In claim 13, at lines 4 and 8: replace the phrase "electrode socket and said nipple" with - -sockets and said nipples- - (both occurrences).

In claim 15, at lines 9, 10, and 14: delete the term "approximately" (all occurrences).

In claim 19, at line 2: delete the word "column";

at line 4: delete the phrase "one of";

and at line 5: delete "and" and insert thereby - -or as- -.

In claim 20, at line 2: delete the word "column";

and at line 5: delete the phrase "one of" and replace the word "and"

with - -or as- -.

In claim 26, at line 6, delete the phrase "directionally structured".

In claim 29, at lines 12 and 16: delete the term "approximately" (all occurrences).

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Kaufmann et al (US 2,957,716), Kaufmann (US 3,134,616), Gazda (US 4,152,533), Faircloth Jr.(US 4,375,340), Burwell (US 4,679,206), Stewart et al (US 5,336,015), Varela (US 6,500,022), and Baumann et al (US 6,829,287)

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: allowance of claims 1-32 is indicated because while some of the prior arts show electrode columns

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having sockets and nipples with variation in thickness and nipple-thread flank angles, and in particular, Kaufmann et al (US 2,957,716) discloses butt joint of carbon electrodes with a predetermined median matching tolerance and median width of the contact areas at the screw-thread flanks in the millimeter ranges and Faircloth, Jr. (US 4,375,340) discloses a modification of the nipple thread by the removal of material in the thread flank in a predetermined distance, none of the prior arts of record shows or fairly suggests an electrode column having sockets and nipples, in which at their formed contact surfaces, directionally structured scale-shaped elevations (i.e., or flanks or projections) are protruded over a height range between three micrometers and one hundred micrometers as the adjacent electrodes are screwed together with the contact surfaces have a contact pressure in the range between  $0.1\text{N/mm}^2$  and  $80\text{N/mm}^2$  in the manner recited in claims 1, 15, 29, and 31.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tu Ba Hoang whose telephone number is (571) 272-4780. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-fri from 8:30AM to 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin Evans can be reached on (571) 272-4777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Tu Ba Hoang  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3742

March 16, 2005